Table of Contents

Executive Summary Introduction ES-1 Purpose and NeedES-1 Relationship to Other Plans......ES-1 Overview of the Alternatives......ES-2 ES-2 Environmental Analysis ES-2 ES-2 Environmentally Preferable Alternative......ES-2 Consultation and Coordination ProcessES-3 Chapter I: Purpose and Need IntroductionI-1 Project BackgroundI-2 Purpose of and Need for the ProjectI-3 Planning Context......I-4 Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) Management Program......I-4 Public Scoping Process......I-4 Issues and Concerns Addressed in this DocumentI-5 **Chapter II: Alternatives** Description of the Alternatives II-1 Alternative 1 - The No-Action AlternativeII-1 Alternative 2: Rehabilitation of and Improvements to the Roadway, Drainages, and Alternative 3: Resurfacing the Roadway Only with Drainage ImprovementsII-18 Change in Road ElevationII-24 Exclude portions of Northside Drive from the Project AreaII-25 Environmentally Preferable Alternative......II-25

Chapter III: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Discussions Regarding the Affected Environment and Analysis of Environment	
Consequences	
Cumulative Impacts	
Impairment	
Resource Topics Considered in this Environmental Assessment	
Natural Resources	
Cultural Resources	-2
Social Resources	-2
Impact Topics Dismissed From Further Analysis	-4
Environmental Justice	
Natural Resources	
Geology and Geologic Hazards	
Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands	-2
Social Resources	
Wilderness Experience	
Land Use	
Socioeconomics	
Transportation	
Energy Consumption	
Museum Collection	
Mitigation Measures Common to All Action Alternatives	III-6
Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	
Natural Resources	
Soils	
Hydrology, Floodplains, and Water Quality	
Wetlands	
Vegetation	III-24
Wildlife	III-34
Special Status Species	
Air Quality	
Noise	
Cultural Resources	
Archeological Resources	
Traditional Cultural Properties	
Cultural Landscapes	
Social Resources	
Scenic Resources	
Visitor Experience and Recreation	
Park Operations	
hapter IV: Wild and Scenic River Act Compliance	
Introduction	
Consistency with Management Elements of the Merced River Plan	
Relationship to the Boundary	
Classification Consistency	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	IV-1
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 Determination Process	
River Protection Overlay	
Management Zoning	
Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Compatibility	IV-2

Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination	
Project Scoping History	V-1
Agency Consultation	V-1
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	V-1
California State Historic Preservation Officer/Advisory Council on Historic	\/ 2
Preservation	
Future Information	V-2
List of Agencies, Organizations, and Businesses that Received the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project Environmental Assessment	V-3
Chapter VI: List of Preparers	
Chapter VII: Glossary and Acronyms	
Glossary of Terms	VII-1
Acronyms	
, c. o. y. i.	
Chapter VIII: Bibliography	
Appendix A: Cumulative Projects List	
Reasonably Foreseeable Actions	A-2
Present Actions	A-7
Past Actions	A-11
Appendix B: Mitigation Measures Common to all Action Alternatives	
Prior to Construction	B-1
During Construction	
Post Construction	В-4
Appendix C: Merced Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination	
Introduction	
Purpose of this Determination	
Authority	
Wild and Scenic River Designation	
Methodology	
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 Determination	
Protection and Enhancement of Outstandingly Remarkable Values	
Compatibility with Classifications	C-4
Consistency with the River Protection Overlay	
Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 Determination.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	
Section 7 Determination	C-12

List of Figures

Figure I-1	Yosemite National Park, California	l-1
Figure I-2	Yosemite Valley Roads, 1883	
Figure I-3	Photographs of examples of existing roadway and drainage conditions along	
J	the Yosemite Valley Loop Road near El Capitan Straight and Bridalveil Straight,	
	Yosemite National Park, California	I-3
Figure II-1	No Action Alternative.	
Figure II-2	A Typical Roadway Pulverization Process	II-6
Figure II-3	Existing and Proposed Culverts Common to All Action Alternatives	II-7
Figure II-4	Photograph of an area where repairs to river revetment adjacent to the Valley	
J	View parking area would occur and an example of where improvements to	
	trails are needed as prescribed under Alternative 2	II-11
Figure II-5	Typical Proposed Road Improvement Cross-Sections	II-12
Figure II-6	Alternative 2: Proposed Roadside Parking Actions.	
Figure II-7	Alternative 3: Proposed Roadside Parking Actions.	
Figure III-1	West Valley Soils	
Figure III-2	East Valley Soils	
Figure III-3	West Valley Vegetation Types	
Figure III-4	East Valley Vegetation	
Figure III-5	The Extent of Annosus Root Disease in the East Valley, YNP	III-30
Figure III-6	Photograph of a large oak tree leaning over the Yosemite Valley Loop Roadway	
	that has been damaged by plows and large trucks	III-30
Figure III-7	Contributing and Non-Contributing Culverts	III-63
List of Ta	ables	
Table ES-1	Summary of Alternatives	ES-4
Table II-1	Alternative 2 Parking Actions	
Table II-2	Alternative 3 Parking Actions	
Table II-3	Summary of Environmental Consequences	
Table III-1	Soil Types in Yosemite Valley	
Table III-2	Soil Impact Intensity Definitions	
Table III-3	Vegetation Classes Bisected by the Yosemite Valley Loop Road	
Table III-4	Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Considered in this Analysis	
Table III-5	Typical Noise Levels from Construction Equipment	
Table III-6	Classification Criteria for Scenic Category	
Table C-1	Section 7 Evaluation for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project	
Table C-2	Effects of the Proposed Action on Outstandingly Remarkable Values in the	
	Valley Segment of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor	C-13